



THINGOE RURAL

DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE YEAR 1906,

BY

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**Vice-President East Anglian Branch of the British
Medical Association;**

**Fellow of the Incorporated Society of Medical Officers
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THINGOE RURAL DISTRICT.

To the Thingoe Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you my twenty-ninth Annual Report on the Sanitary Condition of the Thingoe Rural District for the year 1906.

The Thingoe Rural District has an area of 83,998 acres, and comprises forty-seven parishes, and is divided into three Sub-Districts, viz., Rougham, Fornham, and Ixworth.

It is essentially an agricultural district, most of the land being under cultivation. The sub-soil consists chiefly of chalk, which is covered by beds of clay or gravel of varying depths, the chalk coming near the surface in places.

The rainfall for the year 1906, which was slightly above the average, amounted to 27.11 inches. There were 175 wet days. I am again indebted to R. Burrell, Esq., of Westley, for the following table of the rainfall for each month during the year :—

INCHES.			INCHES.		
January ...	...	3.64	August ...	...	0.79
February...	...	2.39	September ...	...	1.21
March ...	...	2.12	October ...	...	4.52
April ...	...	0.85	November ...	...	3.83
May ...	...	1.48	December ...	...	2.46
June ...	...	3.37			
July ...	...	0.45	Total...	...	27.11

The population of the Thingoe District, when the last census was taken, was 14,528, towards which the Rougham sub-district contributed 4,677, the Fornham sub-district 5,050, and the Ixworth sub-district 4,801. These numbers, on which the following statistics have been framed, may, I think, still be assumed to be sufficiently correct for this purpose.

Births.

In the Thingoe District during the year 1906 there were registered 316 births, of which 155 were males and 161 were females.

This is equivalent to a birth-rate of 21.75 per 1,000 of the population.

In 1905 there were registered 333 births, the birth-rate being 22.92 per 1,000.

In England and Wales in 1906 the birth-rate was 27.0 per 1,000.

Deaths

In the Thingoe District during the year 1906 there were 135 deaths, of which 20 were under one year of age, 44 between one year and sixty-five years of age, and 71 above sixty-five years of age.

The death-rate for the year was 9.29 per 1,000 of the population.

There were in addition 35 deaths recorded in various institutions outside the district, thus raising the number of deaths to 170, and giving a total death-rate of 11.70 per 1,000.

The death-rate for England and Wales was 15.4 per 1,000.

Excess of Births over Deaths.

In the Thingoe District there were 181 more births than there were deaths.

Deaths in each Quarter.

First quarter—number of deaths, 50. Death-rate, 13.76.

Second quarter—number of deaths, 34. Death-rate, 9.36.

Third quarter—number of deaths, 30. Death-rate, 8.24.

Fourth quarter—number of deaths, 21. Death-rate, 5.76.

Infant Mortality.

Proportion of deaths under one year of age to 1,000 births :—

In the Thingoe District in 1906 it was 63.29.

In the Thingoe District in 1905 it was 102.10.

In England and Wales in 1906 it was 133.0.

Mortality above 60 years of age.

Mortality per 1,000 living above sixty years of age (the estimated number living being 890) :—

In the Thingoe District in 1906 it was 89.88.

In the Thingoe District in 1905 it was 96.62.

In England and Wales in 1906 it was 67.4

In the Thingoe District during the year 1906 there were only four deaths referred to the principal Zymotic Diseases, viz.:—One to Whooping Cough and three to Diarrhœa. This is equivalent to a Zymotic death-rate of 0.27 per 1,000.

In 1905 the Zymotic death-rate was 0.75 per 1,000.

In England and Wales in 1906 it was 1.73 per 1,000.

The Thingoe District has been quite free from Small-Pox. Small-Pox during the past year.

Scarlet Fever appeared in several parts of the district during the year, the greater number of cases occurring at Bardwell and Barton, but in no instance did the disease spread to any extent.

Towards the close of the year several cases of Diphtheria. Diphtheria occurred at Little Saxham. Apart from this outbreak the district has been almost free from this complaint, one case only having occurred at Rede, and one at Rougham.

There has not been a single case of Enteric Fever notified during the past year.

On the whole the district has been remarkably free from this complaint.

The district has also been unusually free from Whooping Cough. Whooping Cough, only one death being recorded under this heading.

The district has again been very free from Diarrhœa, only one death being registered as due to this disease ; but, according to instructions from the Local Government Board, two cases of Enteritis occurring amongst children under one year of age have been entered under this heading, thus raising the number of deaths due to " Diarrhœal Diseases " to three.

The district has again been practically free from this disease in a serious epidemic form.

Tables are attached to this Report showing the nature of all the Infectious Diseases which have been notified during the year, together with the parishes in which they have occurred.

Isolation
Hospital

The Isolation Hospital which was erected at Farnham St. Martin has never been used, it being reserved for Small-Pox patients only.

General
Health of the
District.

It will be seen from the above remarks that the Thingoe District as a whole has been very free from Infectious Diseases of all kinds, and that the death-rate from the principal Zymotic Diseases was only 0.27 per 1,000. I regret to note the very low birth-rate recorded, viz., 21.75 per 1,000. This is probably largely due to the exodus of young married people, or young people of a marriageable age, from country districts.

On the other hand, it will be observed that the death-rate for the year was abnormally low, whilst the death-rate for the last quarter, viz., 5.76 per 1,000, was the lowest ever recorded.

I am, moreover, glad to note that the mortality amongst infants has considerably decreased.

Taking these various points into consideration, the general health of the district may, I think, be considered very satisfactory.

Sanitary
Inspection

The district has been frequently and systematically inspected by Mr. Williams, the Sanitary Inspector, and as a result 233 notices to abate various nuisances have been served. For particulars I would refer to the Inspector's Report, which is appended hereto.

Dwelling
Houses.

The housing of the people cannot be considered altogether satisfactory, owing to the small size of many of the houses, to the materials of which they are built, as well as in some instances to the surroundings, those owned by small and impecunious landlords necessarily being the worst. The remarks of Mr. A. W. Fox in his Report to the "Royal Commission on Labour" some years ago still in the main holds good as far as the Thingoe District is concerned. He says :—"I should say the worst and the best (cottages) "are to be found in Suffolk and Norfolk, the worst "being chiefly in open villages where impecunious "owners or small and greedy speculators are frequently the landlords, or where 'life-holds' are "numerous. The best are nearly always situated on "farms or in 'close' villages belonging to landed "proprietors, who build them without expecting a "return for their money."

During the past year there were thirty-one houses repaired which were found to be more or less dilapidated, eight houses in an unwholesome condition were cleansed, eighteen houses and three schools disinfected, and two cases of overcrowding remedied.

The disposal of sewage throughout the District is principally by means of cesspools, which are emptied at irregular intervals as occasion may require. There are only a few places where there is any system of drainage. The drains in existence chiefly run into cesspools, or find their way into open water-courses, or occasionally into ponds. In some cases where there is sufficient ground the old priory is being replaced by earth closets.

Drainage and
Sewerage.

During the past year nine new closets were erected, ten closets repaired, and sixty-two cesspools were ordered to be cleaned out. Seven new drains were constructed, twelve defective drains were repaired, and nine water courses cleaned out.

The Sewerage Farm at West Stow has been frequently visited during the year, and monthly reports on its condition have been submitted by the Sanitary Inspector to the Thingoe Rural District Council. These reports have on the whole been of fairly satisfactory character.

West Stow
Sewerage
Farm.

Serious complaints have, however, been made from time to time by residents, living in the neighbourhood of the Farm, of the stench arising therefrom, especially in the Summer and Autumn evenings.

Last year water was not so scarce as it has been in some recent years, owing to the greater rainfall.

Water
Supply.

During the year several samples of water were taken for analysis, four wells were cleaned out and deepened, five pumps and well-top coverings were repaired, three ponds were cleaned out, and four new wells were sunk, viz., at Flempton 1, Fornham All Saints 1, Hengrave 1, and Little Saxham 1.

The Thingoe District, which is essentially a rural district, contains only one factory for the manufacture of clothing, which has been inspected six times. In addition there were forty-two inspections of workshops, and ninety-six inspections of out-workers' premises.

Factory and
Workshop
Act, 1901.

In connection with the workshops eight notices were served relating to want of cleanliness, drainage, and other matters.

A table relating to Factories, Workshops, &c., will be found attached to this Report.

Dairies and
Cowsheds.

Particular attention has been given to Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops, and these have been systematically inspected. As a result ten Cowsheds have been ordered to be repaired and cleansed. Sixteen persons are now registered under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order.

One Dairy was closed in September owing to an outbreak of Anthrax.

Miscellaneous.

Bakehouses and slaughter-houses have also received attention, besides other matters which do not come under any of the above headings, and nuisances connected therewith have been remedied.

I beg to append a Table giving particulars regarding each parish in the Thingoe Rural District, also Tables I., II., III., IV. and V., which show the number of Births, Deaths, Infant Mortality, etc., during the past ten years, those of last year being classified according to diseases, ages, and localities.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES SCOTT KILNER,

M.B., C.M., Edin., D.P.H., Camb.

*Bury St. Edmund's,
January 21st, 1907.*

TABLE I.

THINGOE RURAL DISTRICT.—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1906 and Previous Years

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	NET DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Under 1 year of age.		At all Ages.						
				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Number.	Rate.*
1896	15743	413	26.23	34	82.32	179	11.37	—	—	—	179	11.37
1897	15743	389	24.83	35	89.97	203	12.89	—	—	—	203	12.89
1898	15743	381	24.20	33	86.87	194	12.23	—	—	—	194	12.23
1899	15743	360	22.86	37	102.77	189	12.00	—	—	—	189	12.00
1900	15743	356	22.61	34	95.50	219	13.91	—	—	—	219	13.91
1901	14528	368	25.33	40	108.60	198	13.62	—	—	—	198	13.62
1902	14528	348	23.95	34	97.70	201	13.83	—	—	—	201	13.83
1903	14528	351	22.78	27	81.57	174	11.97	—	—	25	199	11.97
1904	14528	353	24.29	36	101.97	191	13.14	—	—	20	211	13.14
1905	14528	333	22.92	34	102.10	176	12.11	—	—	26	202	12.11
Averages for years 1896-1905	15135	365	24.00	34	94.93	192	12.70	—	—	23	199	12.70
1906	14528	316	21.75	20	63.29	135	9.29	—	—	35	170	11.70

*Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 83,998. Total population at all ages, 14,528; number of inhabited houses, 3,491; average number of persons per house, 4.16; at Census of 1901.

TABLE II.

THINGOE RURAL DISTRICT.—Vital Statistics of Separate Localities in 1906 and Previous Years.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	ROUGHAM SUB-DISTRICT.				FORNHAM SUB-DISTRICT.				IXWORTH SUB-DISTRICT.			
	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
YEAR.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.
1896	5051	132	52	11	5415	147	64	7	5277	134	63	16
1897	5051	123	57	15	5415	128	67	9	5277	138	79	11
1898	5051	115	66	8	5415	140	75	15	5277	126	53	10
1899	5051	123	59	15	5415	106	63	9	5277	131	67	13
1900	5051	99	60	7	5415	128	64	10	5277	129	95	17
1901	4677	123	63	10	5050	130	68	17	4801	115	67	13
1902	4677	110	61	9	5050	125	58	12	4801	113	82	13
1903	4677	101	50	10	5050	115	69	8	4801	115	55	9
1904	4677	105	60	9	5050	119	60	15	4801	129	71	12
1905	4677	104	63	9	5050	122	43	5	4801	107	73	20
Averages of Years 1896 to 1905	4864	113	58	10	5234	126	63	10	5039	123	70	13
1906	4677	89	46	9	5050	104	34	5	4801	123	55	6

TABLE III.

THINGOE RURAL DISTRICT.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1906.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.		
	At all Ages.	At Ages — Years.					Rougham Sub-district.	Fornham Sub-district.	Iworth Sub-district.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.			
Diphtheria	13	—	4	5	1	3	2	11	—
Erysipelas	8	—	—	—	1	6	2	2	4
Scarlet Fever	29	1	7	18	1	2	5	4	20
Puerperal Fever	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Totals	51	1	11	23	3	12	9	18	24

Isolation Hospital situated at Fornham St. Martin set apart for cases of Small-pox only.

TABLE IV.

THINGOE RURAL DISTRICT.—Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1906.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING IN OR BEYOND THE DISTRICT.					DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO LOCALITIES (AT ALL AGES).		
	All Ages	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	
Whooping Cough ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Epidemic Influenza...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteritis ...	5	2	1	—	1	1	1	2
Puerperal Fever ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other septic diseases ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	9	—	—	1	5	2	2	3
Other tubercular diseases ...	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	1
Cancer, malignant disease...	10	—	—	—	5	5	3	3
Bronchitis ...	8	2	—	1	2	2	2	2
Pneumonia ...	6	—	2	—	1	1	—	—
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	1
Alcoholism Cirrhosis of liver	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Premature birth ...	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	1
Heart diseases ...	9	—	—	—	—	—	9	3
Suicides ...	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	1
All other causes ...	71	10	1	—	—	12	48	35
All causes ...	135	20	6	2	4	32	71	55

TABLE V.

THINGOE RURAL DISTRICT.—Infantile Mortality during the Year 1906.

CAUSE OF DEATH.			Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
<i>All Causes.</i>																			
Certified	...	...	5	2	—	4	11	2	1	—	—	1	1	—	2	1	—	—	19
Uncertified	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
<i>Common Infectious Diseases.</i>																			
Whooping Cough	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
<i>Diarrheal Diseases.</i>																			
Diarrhoea, all forms	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
<i>Wasting Diseases.</i>																			
Premature Birth	...	...	2	—	—	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	...	...	2	1	—	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	6
Convulsions	...	...	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Bronchitis	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Other Causes	...	...	1	1	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
			6	2	—	4	12	2	1	—	—	1	1	—	2	1	—	—	20

Population estimated to middle of 1906, 14,528.

Births in the year—legitimate, 301; illegitimate, 15.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 135.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORKPLACES AND HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTION.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS OF
NUISANCES.

Premises.	Number of	
	Inspections.	Written Notices.
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	6	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ...	42	8
Homeworkers' Premises	—	—
Total	48	8

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.	
	Found.	Remedied.
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>		
Want of cleanliness	4	4
Want of drainage of floors	2	—
Other nuisances	1	1
Sanitary accommodation—Insufficient	1	—
Total	8	5

* Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7 and 8, of the Factory and Workshops Act as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

3.—HOME WORK.

Nature of Work.	Number of		
	Lists.	Outworkers.	Inspections of Outworkers' Premises.
Wearing Apparel—			
(1) making, &c.	2	96	96
Total	2	96	96

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (S. 131) at the end of the year—

Bakehouses	20
Brickworks	1
Total number of workshops on Register	21

Summary of Sanitary Work completed during the year 1906.

Number of Notices served	233
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DWELLING HOUSES.

Number of houses repaired	31
„ cases of overcrowding remedied	2
„ houses in unwholesome condition cleansed	...	...	...	...	8
„ houses disinfected	...	...	...	...	18
„ schools disinfected	...	...	...	...	3

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

Number of new closets erected	...	...	...	...	9
„ closets repaired	...	...	...	...	10
„ cesspools cleansed	...	...	...	...	62
„ new drains constructed	...	...	...	...	7
„ drains repaired	...	...	...	...	12
„ water courses cleaned out	...	...	...	...	9

WATER SUPPLY.

Number of new wells sunk	...	...	...	...	4
„ wells cleaned out and deepened	...	...	...	...	4
„ pumps and well-top covers repaired	...	...	...	...	5
„ ponds cleaned out	...	...	...	...	3
„ samples of water taken for analysis	7

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Number of cowsheds repaired and cleansed	10
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MISCELLANEOUS.

Number of nuisances caused by improper keeping of animals remedied	5
„ offensive accumulations removed and open holes filled in	...	...	...	40
„ bakehouses cleansed	...	...	...	4
„ slaughter-houses cleansed	4
„ homes of out-workers visited	96
„ legal proceedings	0

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Sanitary Inspector.

9, *Fornham Road,*

Bury St. Edmund's.



Sanitary Statistics of Thingoe Rural District for the Year 1906.

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